



Infrastructure Investments

The MVC has been busy throughout 2010 with a number of critical infrastructure projects designed to provide the organization with modern facilities that aid in its ability to be a flexible and dynamic organization. Referring to the projects as "investments in the future," MVC Chief Administrator Raymond Martinez cut the ribbon on four facilities built on state-owned land; one on Route 130 in South Brunswick, a second on Canfield Avenue in Randolph, a third on Woodbridge Road in Rahway and a fourth new agency in Lodi. The new facilities, all funded by a 2003 bond, provide more square footage, additional service counters, green features, improved customer amenities and one-stop-shopping with each adjacent to an inspection station. Additionally, the Oakland agency was expanded at the end of the year when the neighboring space in the mall it occupies became available.

Back to School

Safe school buses are a priority all year long with the MVC but it was back in September when this issue was hot on everyone's mind. To help bring attention to the MVC's strict school bus inspection program, Chief Administrator Raymond Martinez was joined at a Back-to-School Bus Inspection event by State Senator Kip Bateman, Assemblyman Pete Biondi, both (R-16), and students from the Goddard School. Held at the Valcheck Bus Company in Hillsborough, the event provided an in-depth look at the entire school bus inspection process, which entails a thorough check of more than 180 items twice a year. Martinez also highlighted the school bus inspection report information that is available on the MVC website, www.njmvc.gov. Parents can search for the most recent inspection record of their child's bus.



New Hours Equal Added Convenience

It's been nearly six months since new agency service hours took effect and MVC customers are experiencing greater convenience statewide. With the overwhelming popularity of Saturday service, as well as evening hours previously offered during the week, the MVC took the opportunity to turn the elimination of Monday agency services into a positive change. Looking to help customers avoid taking leave time from work or school during the day, the MVC extended Tuesday and Thursday hours to 7:30 p.m. and added an extra hour of service (open until 1:00 p.m.) to its busy Saturdays. Along with reducing costs, the MVC is able to be there for its customers when it's much more convenient and continues to publicize the changes through posters in the agencies and mail inserts.

Responsible Vehicle Ownership

Being a safe and responsible motorist means more than just focusing on the road when behind the wheel. It also involves regular maintenance throughout the life of the vehicle, including oil changes, brake checks, tire rotations and other general care. Towards the end of the summer, New Jersey's vehicle inspection program underwent major changes. Since August, vehicles that are five model years or older receive only an emissions check every two years. Although the state no longer inspects for mechanical defects, regular maintenance and repairs remain the full responsibility of the vehicle owner. Law enforcement may cite a vehicle owner for failure to make repairs or equipment out of compliance at any time. For more information about inspections and tips on keeping a vehicle in good running shape, visit njinspections.com.

Time to Show Your Pride

Starting in October, the MVC began selling its much-anticipated sports license plates. While only NASCAR license plates were initially available, the MVC quickly followed-up with the introduction of New Jersey Devils license plates and others representing NBA, MLB and NFL teams from Philadelphia and New York. All the plates are available for \$60 per year on top of traditional registration fees. Personalized are available for an additional \$50. The entire line-up can be ordered online at www.njmvc.gov/sports. The new sports license plates are made using new flat plate technology – a manufacturing process that focuses on improved quality and security. Instead of embossing the alpha-numeric characters and then painting and baking, the characters are digitally printed first before the plates are stamped. Additionally, the new flat plates last longer and provide better visibility for law enforcement.



Technology Highlights of the MVC

While not the most glamorous of all the improvements the MVC has made over nearly a decade, technological enhancements play one of the most important roles in the delivery of motor vehicle services. With three major technology projects now underway, the MVC has made a major investment in the future. Project teams are ready to roll out the first of three releases of the core computer system overhaul later this month. Installation is now underway for the new driver testing system known as DARTSS (Driver and Road Test Scoring System), which will bring greater security and improved efficiency to both the knowledge and road tests. The new system will be fully operational in early 2011. Lastly, the MVC has begun the installation of new equipment to allow for the issuance of a new Enhanced Digital Driver License (EDDL). With MVC plans for pilot testing in early 2011, New Jersey's new license will offer upgraded security features, as well as others compliant with the federal Real ID law and standards set by the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators (AAMVA).

MVC an Active Participant in Building Voter Roles

Turning customer attention to the upcoming November elections, Chief Martinez joined Lt. Governor Kim Guadagno, in her capacity as Secretary of State, at the Freehold Agency to highlight the October 12 voter registration deadline. During the event, Guadagno stressed the importance of being an active citizen and noted the value of the federal Motor Voter law, which provides for numerous outlets where citizens can register to vote. Martinez echoed this sentiment and announced that of all the voter registrations in New Jersey, nearly 50 percent come from the MVC.

